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Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Economic and Social Council's new president says international community's inability to achieve world peace is result of its failure to address underlying socio-economic problems which cause strife.

+ Special Representative in Somalia says safety of international staff with UNOSOM must come first; United Nations civilian personnel to leave Somalia earlier than scheduled because of looting and fighting.

+ Co-chairmen of International Conference on former Yugoslavia meet in Zagreb with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Special Representative Yasushi Akashi.

+ United Nations launches $213 million interagency appeal for Angola to cover humnanitarian activities for 1995.

+ Appeal also lauched for displaced persons from Chechnya; United Nations asks for nearly $24 million.

+ Member States owe United Nations $3.6 billion as of January 31.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to meet head of Tajik opposition delegation Friday.

+ United Nations delegation to visit Myanmar for new round of talks.

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The root cause behind the international community's inability to realize international peace was its failure to effectively address the socio-economic factors that lead to strife, the new President of the Economic and Social Council, Ahmad Kamal (Pakistan) said yesterday. The world still continued in a state of uncertainty, despite the expectations engendered by the end of the cold war. Progress remained sporadic and woefully uneven.

Addressing the Council's first organizational meeting for 1995, Mr. Ahmad said the importance of tackling those factors had been apparent to the members

of the United Nations since its inception. However, they had been unable to generate the necessary political will to eliminate inequities in the global environment. Equally important, the international community had not devised mechanisms that would effectively translate the existing global consensus on broad policies into viable programmes for alleviating socio-economic stress.

During the United Nations fiftieth anniversary year, he said the Council should take measures to help it achieve one of its most difficult and cherished objectives, that of improving economic and social conditions which threatened to destroy post cold war hopes for peace.

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The safety of international staff of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) must be placed first, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Somalia, Mr. Victor Gbeho said yesterday. Ambasssador Gbeho said in the last few days there had been fighting for control of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) building recently vacated in south Mogadishu and the systematic looting of the former UNOSOM headquarters, the United States Embassy University and the Pakistani Brigade headquarters compounds which were finally vacated yesterday.

It was clear that the pledges by Somali leaders to keep those areas free of fighting and looting had not been honoured, Ambassador Gbeho said. Therefore the bulk of UNOSOM's international civilian staff will have to leave Somalia slightly earlier than originally scheduled. UNOSOM's military force is also in the process of withdrawal and will continue to protect the air and sea ports in Mogadishu until all international staff and equipment belonging to the United Nations had been despatched as planned, he said.

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The co-chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia Lord David Owen and Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg were in Zagreb today for meetings with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi. They discussed the "Z-4" proposal on a political settlement for the Croatian conflict. President Tudjman has indicated the plan as proposed is not acceptable to Croatia. However, he has made it clear Croatia is willing to enter into serious discussions and negoatiations based on the plan. The Croatian Serb leaders in Knin have refused even to accept the plan, demanding first a written guarantee from the Security Council that UNPROFOR will remain in Croatia. The international mediators said they regretted very much the refusal of the Croatian Serbs to even look at the proposals.

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The United Nations has launched a consolidated interagency appeal for $212.8 million for Angola to cover humanitarian activities for 1995. More than 3 million Angolans are in need of food aid or other emergency

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assistance. The appeal covers relief and resettlement for the country's estimated 1.1 million internally displaced persons and for 100,000 refugees expected to be repatriated this year.

The humanitarian programme also includes support for the demobilization and reintegration of 90,000 former combatants, and a mine action programme to deal with the estimated 10,000,000 land-mines in the country. There are approximately 70,000 amputees as a result of mine incidents in Angola. The humanitarian agencies and the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) will collaborate in land-mine related activities.

The United Nations agencies whose activities are covered by the appeal include: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the International Labour Organization (ILO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Health Organization (WHO); the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

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The United Nations has also lauched a "flash appeal" for displaced persons from Chechnya. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs is seeking $23.6 million to cover work between January and April by four United Nations agencies: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in a coordinating capacity.

More than 160,000 people who have fled the fighting in Chechnya and are now living in the nearby areas of Daghestan, Ingushetia and North Ossetia, are targeted by the "flash appeal" launched today. The aid will also ease the burden of the local families who are housing 95 per cent of those internally displaced persons and as a result are also suffering severe hardship.

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The United Nations was owed a total of $3.6 billion as of 31 January. Of that amount, $1.4 billion was for unpaid assessments to the regular budget and $2.2 billion was for peacekeeping assessments, according to a United Nations spokesman. At the end of December, the unpaid contributions totaled approximately $1.8 billion. Only 75 of 185 Member States had paid their budget assessments in full and some 39 had made no payment at all to the regular budget during the last year. As of 31 January 1995, only 19 Member States had paid their regular budget assessments in full.

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Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, will meet with Akbar Turajonzodah, Head of the Tajik opposition delegation at the inter-Tajik talks and First Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan tomorrow. Also at the meeting will be Mohammadsharif Himmatzodah,

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Deputy Head of the Tajik opposition delegation. The two men are currently on a private visit to the United States. Discussions will focus on issues related to the inter-Tajik political dialogue, particularly the next round of United Nations-sponsored negotiations between the Tajik Government and the opposition. The aim is to facilitate the process of national reconciliation in Tajikistan.

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Following the dialogue initiated last October, between Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the Government of Myanmar, a new round of talks will be held in Yangon from 6 to 8 February, a United Nations spokesman said today. Alvaro de Soto, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, will lead the United Nations delegation at the talks. The delegation will arrive in Myanmar over the weekend.

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